

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 OPR-02

OMB-01 CU-04 IGA-02 SNM-02 SY-10 AGR-20 DEAE-00

JUSE-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /178 W

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R 101515Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2188

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

CONFIDENTIAL MANAGUA 3376

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SUMMARY-JULY 28-AUGUST 9, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 3250

1. LABOR UNREST CONTINUES TO SPREAD-THE COUNTRY'S LABOR PROBLEMS PERSIST. IN ADDITION TO ONGOING STRIKES AT FABRITEX AND METASA (MANAGUA 3359), SEVENTY OF THE APPROXIMATELY NINETY EMPLOYEES IN THE INSTALLATION DIVISION OF SIEMENS CENTROAMERICANO WENT ON STRIKE MORNING OF AUGUST9. THE WORKERS' PRINCIPAL DEMAND IS FOR A SALARY INCREASES A GROUP PURPORTEDLY REPRESENTING WORKERS FROM THE THREE PLANTS HAVE FORMED A "COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR STRIKE SOLIDARITY" CALLING FOR UNIFIED SUPPORT FOR THEIR DEMANDS FROM THE LABOR SECTOR AND

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CONVENING A GENERAL MEETING AUGUST 11 IN MANAGUA.

2. STUDENT INVOLVED IN FABRITEX STRIKE IMPRISONED-
A STUDENT AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF NICARAGUA (UNAN)
WHOSE BROTHER WORKS AT FABRITEX WAS ARRESTED BY THE
NATIONAL GUARD ON AUGUST 1 AND PROMPTLY SENTENCED TO SIX
MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR PASSING OUT PAMPHLETS SUPPORTING
THE STRIKE. A THIRD YEAR STUDENT IN SOCIAL SERVICE, HER CASE
HAS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY WITH UNAN STUDENTS
WHO REPORTEDLY DECLARED A PARTIAL STRIKE PROTESTING THE
HARSH "INCOMMUTABLE" SENTENCE. NOTED CRIMINAL LAWYER
AQUILES CENTENO PEREZ, WHO ATTAINED NOTORIETY FOR HIS
DEFENSE OF STUDENTS AND FSLN MEMBERS, HAS APPEALED THE
SENTENCE WHICH HE CALLS "ARBITRARY" AND "AN ACT OF VENGEANCE
AND PROVOCATION AGAINST STUDENTS AND WORKERS". HER RELEASE
HAS ALSO BEEN DEMANDED BY THE "COORDINATING COMMITTEE"
REFERRED TO ABOVE.

3. THE NEW AGUERO APPEARS-IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE
SINCE EARLY JUNE, DR. FERNANDO AGUERO ADDRESSED A
POLITICAL MEETING AT RIVAS AUGUST 5. LIVING UP TO HIS
NEW "NATIONALIST AND REVOLUTIONARY " BILLING DR. AGUERO
LASHED OUT CHARGING THE SOMOZA REGIME WITH "CORRUPTION
AND INEFFECTIVENESS," THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WITH
"INTERVENTION" AND THE USG WITH FOLLOWING A POLICY OF
"SUPPORTING THE SOMOZA". RIVAS WAS LEFT WITH LASTING
IMPRESSIONS OF THE RALLY SINCE THE COMPETING AGUERO
AND PAGUAGA FACTIONS PAINTED UP THE TOWN WITH THEIR
RESPECTIVE RECRIMINATIONS.

4. SOMOCISTAS CALL FOR NEW LIBEL LAW-IN RECENT WEEKS
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AND LIBERAL PARTY
SECRETARY CORNELIO HUECK HAS ACTIVELY PRESSED FOR PASSAGE
OF A TOUGHER AND MORE EXTENSIVE LIBEL LAW. HUECK CREATED
A SENSATION LAST YEAR WHEN HE CALLED FOR "SOCIALIZATION" OF
THE PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA. GENERAL SOMOZA, WHO HAD BEEN
ABROAD AT THE TIME, RETURNED TO DENY THAT HUECK WAS SPEAKING
FOR THE PARTY AND TO SQUASH FURTHER STATEMENTS ON THE
SUBJECT. WITH HUECK AND OTHER GON OFFICIALS UNDER CONSTANT
ATTACK IN OPPOSITION LA PRENSA FOR ALLEGED PROFITEERING
FROM THE RECONSTRUCTION AND OTHER SHADY DEALS, SOMOCISTA
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CIRCLES ARE EXPRESSING INCREASED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE COUNTER
MEASURES. MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT MARIN, WHO HAS
JURISDICTION OVER SUCH MATTERS, IS SEEKING COPIES OF US
LIBEL LAWS IN CONNECTION WITH A STUDY OF POSSIBLE LEGISLATION.
CONCEIVABLY, THIS SUBJECT COULD ALSO BE DEALT WITH IN THE NEW
CONSTITUTION.

5. ALBURNET DEPARTS FOR CHILE-CONTROVERSIAL CUBAN EXILE

GENERAL ALBUERNE FERNANDEZ (MANAGUA 3131) WAS QUIETLY USHERED OUT OF THE COUNTRY BY CHILEAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 2 ENROUTE TO CHILE. ALBUERNE, A SELF-PROCLAIMED ANTI-CASTROITE WHO IS ACCUSED OF BEING A CUBAN AGENT AND BETRAYER OF THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION, WAS IMPRISIONED FOR EIGHT YEARS BY THE GON. HS ESCAPED LAST MONTH AND SOUGHT POLITICAL ASYLUM AT THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY AGREED TO ADMIT ALUBERNE AS AN "UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN" RATHER THAN A POLITICAL ASYLEE AND PROVIDED HIM WITH TRAVEL PAPERS. OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO GET HIM OFF ITS HANDS, THE GON PROMPTLY GRANTED AN EXIT VISA.

6. POLICESEIZE HUGE QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA-ON AUGUST 5 AGENTS OF THE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE MANAGUA POLICE SEIZED APPROXIMATELY 500 POUNDS OF MARIJUAN WHICH WAS GROWING ON A LARGE PLOT OF LAND NEAR MASAYA. THE ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE MARIJUANA ON THE LOCAL MARKET IS 70 THOUSAND DOLLARS. POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING REPORTS THAT SEVERAL FOREIGNERS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING U S CITIZENS, WERE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION. THE NEWLY RECONSTITUTED NARCOTICS DIVISION HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR THIS MAJOR SEIZURE.

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